

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 9, 2012				Report Date	Tuesday, March 5, 2012			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Support for resolution - Emerald Ash Borer Report #09/03/12/1104									

Subject: Support for a resolution presented by the Ontario Urban Forest Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the following resolution in support of the Ontario Urban Forest Council.

WHEREAS over 80% of Canadians now live in urban areas and have come to rely on the environmental, ecological and economic benefits of urban forests;

AND WHEREAS the health of Canadians is sustained by their urban forests which provide services through improving air quality, cooling city streets and buildings, acting as a windbreak, shading from harmful UV rays, and filtering storm water, as well as beautifying our communities;

AND WHEREAS neither the federal nor provincial governments currently include urban forestry in their mandates except in a limited role with respect to exotic, invasive pests;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has not been able to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer throughout Ontario and Quebec;

AND WHEREAS the Emerald Ash Borer is expected to cost Canadians over \$2 Billion dollars in treatment and replanting;

AND WHEREAS Canadian forestry programs and research are solely focused on industrial forests and do not at present include urban tree planting, appropriate species research, and insect control and management;

AND WHEREAS other jurisdictions such as the United States Forest Service and the European Urban Forestry Research and Information Centre include urban forestry as a program and research area;

AND WHEREAS Canada engages municipalities in a number of substantial infrastructure programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria calls on the Federal and Provincial governments to take leadership roles in recognizing the need to support urban forestry, by establishing urban forestry mandates and programs which includes funding assistance to municipalities for

the control and management of the Emerald Ash Borer – and any future significant imported diseases and insects – as well as the creation and funding of programs designed to support the on-going sustainable management of urban forests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all municipalities across Ontario be encouraged to endorse this proclamation and that this resolution be distributed to Minister Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; Minister Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources; Minister Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; Minister Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance; Local Federal Member of Parliament Ms. Cheryl Gallant;

AND TO Minister Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources; Minister Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs of Housing; Minister Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance; Local Provincial Member of the Ontario Legislature John Yakabuski, Tim Hudak, MPP, Leader of Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the Opposition Party; Andrea Horwath, MPP, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Background/Executive Summary: As per Council direction from February 17, 2012 meeting.

Financial Implications/Budget Impact: not applicable

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith